

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) tonight issued the following statement regarding President Obama's State of the Union Address.

"The President's speech focused on new 'investments,' but that just means new spending. Can we afford new spending programs when we're \$14 trillion in debt and we're borrowing 40 cents of every dollar we spend? No, we can't.

"The President just doesn't get it. The federal government is not the answer, the American people are. We need to let them get back to work. We need to stop crowding out private sector growth with out-of-control federal spending. We need to reduce taxes permanently so that small businesses can grow and create jobs. We need to eliminate excessive regulations that hurt economic growth and destroy jobs. That is how you grow the economy and reduce unemployment.

"The explosion of federal spending over the last two years has left our country in a deep hole. We have to stop digging ourselves deeper and start looking for a way out of this mess. Just like families across Florida, we need to start by cutting up our credit cards, scaling back spending everywhere we can, and paying off what we owe.

"We need cut spending drastically and immediately, and nothing should be off the table.

"The tax, borrow and spend approach to growing the economy is stimulus déjà vu. This approach has already failed miserably, leaving us with unemployment near 10 percent nationally and 12 percent in Florida.

"The President talked about competitiveness, but the fact is, continuing to borrow money from China won't help us compete with China. It's time to try a new approach.

"The fact that there are tens of thousands of young Americans deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and we didn't hear anything of substance from the Commander in Chief to reassure our military

and their families that the government has their back and they're in good hands in unacceptable. We owe it to our men and women in uniform, who are putting their lives on the line, to have a plan in place to address the high levels of corruption in the Afghanistan government."

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